

## MICROPARTICLE TAGGANT SYSTEMS

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A microparticle taggant having two or more distinguishable marker layers  
corresponding to a predetermined numeric code. The plurality of particles comprises a  
plurality of microparticle sets of at least one microparticle, each microparticle set is  
characterized by a specific marker layer combination different from each other  
microparticle set, and the combination of microparticle sets employed in said taggant  
10 collectively forms the numeric code. Each specific marker layer combination may  
employ two or more layers. The microparticle sets employed in the taggant may include  
at least one datum marker layer coded to include place information and at least two value  
marker layers coded to specify a value within the place, the datum marker layer(s) being  
readily distinguishable from the value marker layers and functioning to identify an  
15 orientation of the value marker layers.

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